

**From:** Domenech, Douglas  
**To:** [Scott Hommel](#); [Magallanes, Downey](#); [Laura Rigas](#); [Swift, Heather](#); [James Cason](#); [Micah Chambers](#); [Daniel Jorjani](#); [Mashburn, Lori](#); [Bauserman, Christine](#); [Caroline Boulton](#); [Thiele, Aaron](#); [Willens, Todd](#); [Getto, Leila](#); [David Bernhardt](#)  
**Subject:** Interior Cabinet Affairs Report for 9/15/17  
**Date:** Friday, September 15, 2017 1:55:48 PM  
**Attachments:** [DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS 09-15-17.docx](#)

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Attached and copied below.

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 9/15/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor  
Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

NOTE: Starting Monday, Lori Mashburn produce these reports. Doug Domenech will move to his new position in the department.

### **Status of the Secretary**

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington, DC.  
Various meetings and briefings.  
Meeting with the Republic of the Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine.  
Meeting with Alaska Federation of Natives.  
Call with Governor Walker (3pm Eastern/11 am Alaska)  
Call with Senator Heller.  
Call with Sen. Udall.  
Call with Chairman Murkowski.  
Call w/Rep. Don Young.

### **NEXT WEEK:**

9:16: American Legion Riders Event, Attend Wolf Trap event.  
9/18-19: Washington, DC. Various meetings and briefings. Revenue Comparison Analysis Model Meeting.  
9/20: Travel to Missouri. Remarks at Gala Dinner Event - Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ.  
9/21: Confirmed Ribbon Cutting Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ.  
Travel to Dallas, TX. Dinner Remarks at NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Closed Press).  
9/22: Washington. Wolf Trap Annual Gala.

### **Status of the Deputy Secretary**

TODAY: The Deputy Secretary is in Washington, DC.

### **Media TODAY**

## **SECRETARY ZINKE SIGNS SECRETARIAL ORDER TO SUPPORT SPORTSMEN & ENHANCE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**

Order seeks to expand access on public and private lands and to promote hunting and fishing among youth, veterans, and minority communities

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke signed Secretarial Order 3356,

which will support and expand hunting and fishing, enhance conservation stewardship, improve wildlife management, and increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans. Secretarial Order 3356 is an extension of Secretarial Order 3347, issued on Zinke's first day, March 2, 2017. That order identified a slate of actions for the restoration of the American sportsmen conservation ethic, which was established by President Theodore Roosevelt.

The new order comes days after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a survey that found there are 2.2 million fewer hunters in America now than in 2011. The order seeks to improve wildlife management and conservation, increase access to public lands for hunting, shooting, and fishing, and puts a new and a greater emphasis on recruiting and retaining new sportsmen conservationists, with a focus on engaging youths, veterans, minorities, and other communities that traditionally have low participation in outdoor recreation activities.

#### **WH COMMS REPORT** (new report filed Thursday)

##### **Press Inquiries:**

- Many small inquiries.
- Politico: (Esther Whieldon)—REQUEST--I'm looking into the Cadiz water project and its connection with Zinke's review of the Mojave Trails national monument. To what extent was David Bernhardt involved in the Sept. 1 railroad ROW rights scope solicitor's opinion (titled "Withdrawal of Solicitor's Opinion M-37025 issued on November 4, 2011, and Partial Withdrawal of Solicitor's Opinion M-36964 issued on January 5, 1989")? And to what extent was Bernhardt involved in Zinke's monument review, including on the Mojave Trails monument? Lastly, to what extent does the agency define the Mojave trails review as a decision that involves Cadiz or how has it delineated between the two, if at all?—RESPONSE--The Cadiz water project has nothing to do with the review of Mojave Trails. There is no connection. Mr. Bernhardt was not involved in the Sept. 1 railroad ROW opinion and was not aware of the opinion until it was uploaded on the Internet. Mr. Bernhardt was not involved in the Mohave Trail Monument Review. The Deputy Secretary, after close coordination with the career ethics experts within the Office of Ethics, has fully complied with his obligations under the Ethics pledge. Mr. Bernhardt has agreed to recuse himself from particular matters involving specific parties. He has committed to ensuring that he is setting the highest ethical standards for his office.
- CQ Roll Call: (Jackie Toth) —REQUEST-- Has DOI received environmentalists' petition today asking for a rulemaking action to ensure fair market value in oil and gas leasing? How does DOI intend to respond?—RESPONSE--The Department always appreciates seeing the American people supporting our work. In the case of ensuring fair market value in energy leases, please see the Royalty Policy Committee, which the Secretary championed.

<https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinke-appoints-members-royalty-policy-committee-announces-first-meeting>

##### **Top Stories**

- Associated Press: Herbert: Zinke Signaled Grand-Staircase Should Be Shrunk
- Washington Examiner: Interior's Zinke demands 'aggressive' war on fires, stop letting 'nature take its course'
- NewsOK (Oklahoma): Oklahoma tribal members appointed to federal Indian Affairs posts
- E&E News: Zinke orders 'aggressive' tree, brush cutting to prevent fires

## **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- Interior sent a press release regarding the Senate Confirmation of Doug Domenech as Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas. The press release can be seen [HERE](#).
- Later today, Interior will announce the signing of a Secretarial Order to Support Sportsmen & Enhance Wildlife Conservation.
- Saturday, Interior will announce the winners of the Federal Duck Stamp awards.
- Monday, DOI will announce \$94.3 million to be distributed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to all 50 states and territories.

## **AGENCY MEDIA**

### **WEEK AHEAD September 13 thru September 21, 2017**

#### Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews

- This week the Secretary is in Washington, D.C., until Sept. 20, where he will travel to Springfield, MO, to participate in the ribbon cutting and the opening of the “Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium.”
- This week we are working with our federal, state, and Tribal partners to support the WH and FEMA with the Hurricane recovery and wildfire response. The NPS Director is in the USVI to oversee response efforts.
- September 13: we announced PDAS for Indian Affairs, John Tahsuda.
- September 14: Secretary Zinke will sign a Secretarial Order to Support Sportsmen & Enhance Conservation. We will issue a press release.
- September 18: Department-level Release: DOI and NPS will announce \$94.3 million to be distributed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to all 50 States, the Territories, and the District of Columbia for State-identified outdoor recreation and conservation projects.
- September 16: Department-level Release: Duck Stamp winners announced.
- TBD: Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Doug Domenech was confirmed by the Senate the evening of September 13. We will issue a statement and photo of his swearing-in asap.

#### **National Park Service**

- September TBD: Local NPS Release: NPS Pacific West Region will announce the new superintendent of Redwood National and State Parks.
- September TBD: Local NPS Release: NPS will issue a news release regarding the independent review panel findings that Golden Gate National Recreation Area dog rule process was unaffected by inappropriate personal email use.
- September 17: Antietam National Battlefield will commemorate the 150th anniversary of Antietam National Cemetery. The ceremony will begin at noon and include speeches by historian Gary Gallagher, U.S.S. Antietam Captain George Kessler, and Maryland Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford. Following the ceremony, the public will be invited to participate in a reading of the names of those interred in the cemetery and the placing of flags at each grave site.

#### **U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service**

- September 14: Local FWS Release: Release announcing the final listing determination for the pearl darter as threatened. FWS is required to publish the determination in the Federal Register by September 21.
- September 14: Local FWS Release: By September 14, FWS will send to the Federal Register the final rule to list the Sonoyta mud turtle as an endangered species. Sonoyta mud turtle was designated a candidate in 1997 and we were petitioned to list the species in 2004 (in a 225 organism mega-petition). The turtle occurs in the U.S. in only one population at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in southern Arizona, and four populations in northern Sonora Mexico. These five remaining populations occupy only about 8-20 percent of the turtle's historical range.
- September 15: Local FWS Release: FWS Region 2 will announce this voluntary conservation agreement to conserve the Texas hornshell mussel.
- September 19: Local FWS Release: FWS is required by settlement agreement to submit the endangered finding for the ʻiʻiwi to the Federal Register by September 20. Outreach is planned to Hawaiian media and to national conservation and bird-centric media.
- September TBD: Public comment period opening for voluntary wildlife conservation opportunity designed with Montana ranchers, regulatory certainty for the next 20 years through a Programmatic Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). Participants can voluntarily take steps to conserve the Sprague's pipit, McCown's longspur, chestnut-collared longspur, Baird's sparrow, and greater sage-grouse on their property while conducting their general business operations.

### **Bureau of Land Management**

- Week of September 18: Local BLM Release: BLM-AZ will announce the acquisition of the 600-acre ET Ranch in Southeastern Arizona, through a shared conservation partnership with the Trust for Public Land and Arizona Game and Fish Department. The acquisition will open access for hunters, hikers, and backpackers to 32,600 acres of Federal wilderness area for the first time and is supported by 20 Arizona hunting and sporting groups.
- September 18: The public comment period closes on the BLM-NV December 2017 Oil and Gas Lease Sale Preliminary Environmental Assessment. A competitive oil and gas lease sale will be held December 12. The BLM received requests to lease 208 nominated parcels of public land, totaling 388,960 acres. The parcels are located in White Pine, Nye County, and Lincoln County. There is no estimate on the number of bidders at this time.
- September 19: BLM-WY Buffalo Field Office will meet with landowners from around the Pumpkin Buttes Traditional Cultural Property to discuss concerns with a proposed Programmatic Agreement that would streamline and define that tribal consultation about federal projects within three miles of the area would take place. The meeting will be staffed by local BLM management and subject matter experts on oil and gas development and cultural resources from the Buffalo Field Office. The public and media will be invited.
- September 21: National BLM Release: BLM-Eastern States will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for three parcels in Monroe County, OH, totaling 141.56 acres, and 3 parcels in Catahoula and Bienville Parishes, LA, totaling 50.15 acres. The sale in Ohio is expected to be controversial. Bidding is not expected to be robust.
- September 21: National BLM Release: BLM-WY will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 141 parcels totaling 118,055.54 acres in Niobrara, Weston, Goshen, Crook, Converse, Campbell, Johnson, Fremont, Big Horn, Washakie, Weston, and Sheridan Counties, WY. The sale is not

expected to be controversial. Bidding is not expected to be robust.

### **U.S. Geological Survey**

- September 18: Local USGS Release: USGS will put out a release announcing that scientists from the GHSC and Menlo Park will be excavating a trench across the Teton fault in Jackson, Wyoming. A media availability will take place Sept. 20.
- September 18: Local USGS Release: USGS will put out a release announcing that scientists will conduct dye tracer and aerial mapping surveys on northern Idaho's Kootenai River.'
- September 21: National USGS Release: USGS will put out a release regarding a nature article on the potential release of mercury currently stored in permafrost.

### **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**

- September 12: National BOEM Release: BOEM will announce new mid-and south Atlantic canyons, corals, seeps study, in partnership with USGS and NOAA under the National Oceanographic Partnership Program. First mission begins Sept. 10, and runs for 3 weeks. Similar arrangement as the previous NOPP Mid-Atlantic canyons study.
- September 12: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send invitations to a New York Renewable Energy Intergovernmental Task Force on October 3.
- September 15-19 (tent.): Note to Stakeholders on the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Cape Wind Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD is due to be completed on Sep 15.
- September TBD: National BOEM Release: Gulf G&G PEIS Record of Decision.
- September TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM will announce Marine Minerals
- Rule.

### **Office of Insular Affairs**

- September TBD: OIA Release American Samoa Authorization to Proceed – Insular ABCs – Repairs in the Public Schools.
- September TBD: FSM Compact Infrastructure and Technical Assistance ~ \$1.5 million September TBD: RMI Press Release Compact Infrastructure \$149,436; Ebeye Special Needs \$300,000; Health Care Program for 4 Atolls (Section 177) \$697,387.
- September TBD: FY 2017 CIP Infrastructure funding for Guam and CNMI ~ \$10 million

### **Office of Natural Resources Revenue**

- September TBD: National ONRR Release: ONRR will announce Secretary's appointment of 20 non-federal members of Royalty Policy Committee and announcing first Meeting of Committee on Oct. 4.

### **Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement**

- September 13: BSEE News Brief: BSEE will issue a news brief regarding their participation in the Feds Feed Families program.

### **CONGRESSIONAL** (updated)

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

9:30am: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business Meeting to consider the nominations of Mr. Ryan Nelson to be Solicitor of the Interior, Mr. Joseph Balash to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management, and Mr. Richard Glick and Mr. Kevin McIntyre to be Members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

**Political Appointee Update** (no change)

DOI politicals on board = 55

1 confirmed 9/13.

4 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.

Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

Pending Senate Committee Vote 9/19: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals.

Pending Senate Committee Vote 9/19: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor.

Overall:

Schedule C: 32 of 68 onboard; 1 starting; 5 in process

NC-SES: 21 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 3 in process

PAS: 3 Confirmed; 4 Announced; 15 of 17 Submitted to PPO

**Secretary Speaking Invitations** (unchanged from yesterday)

Accepted

9/20-21 - Ribbon Cutting, Wonders of Wildlife Museum & Aquarium Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)

9/25 - Remarks at National Stone Sand and Gravel Association Legislative and Policy Forum (DC)

9/25 – National Petroleum Council

9/26 – National Clean Energy Week Symposium (DC)

9/26 - Jefferson's Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)

9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)

Outstanding Invitations in Process

Open - Detroit Economic Club

Open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)

Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

Declining

9/17 - 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)

9/18 – Concordia Annual Summit (NYC)

9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)

9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Assn - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)

9/20 – Remarks to the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (DC)

9/21 - Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) (DC)

9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)

9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)

9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)

9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)

9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)

9/28-30 - Council for National Policy

10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)  
10/2 - IOGCC Annual Meeting (Pittsburgh PA)  
10/3 – ShaleTech Permian (Odessa, Texas)  
10-16-17 Americans For Tax Reform Coalition Leaders Summit (Miami Beach, FL)  
10/13 - Public Land & Resources Law Review's Public Land Law Conference (Missoula, MT)  
11/14 – George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)  
10/31 - George B. Hartzog, Jr. Awards and Speaker Program Clemson University (SC)

**Emergency Management** (new)

As operations for Hurricane Harvey and Irma have begun to transition from response to long term recovery, the Interior Operations Center (IOC) will reduce its operational status to Level 3 (Enhanced Operations) effective September 15, 2017, at 8:00 a.m. EDT.

Support updates to the interagency Hurricane Irma Response are as follows:

DOI currently has 190 personnel supporting 10 FEMA Mission Assignments (MA) in response to Hurricane Irma.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) officially received a FEMA MA under Emergency Support Function (ESF) #5 (Information and Planning) to deploy one (1) BIA Liaison Officer (LNO) to Florida to help coordinate with the Region 4 Tribal Liaison, the Seminole Tribe, and other affected tribes in the state during response and recovery efforts. This LNO is expected to arrive in Florida today. The MA also includes support for BIA's Tribal Assistance Coordination Group (TAC-G) which is the first time FEMA has recognized the TAC-G's role in tribal response activities.

In support of ESF #5 (Information and Planning), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) had one person in Puerto Rico flagging high water marks (HWMs) on September 13. Additionally, USGS had 26 personnel in Florida and 10 in Georgia retrieving storm surge sensors and analyzing data. A total of 42 surge sensors were retrieved between the two states. Two additional personnel were analyzing previously gathered data from sensors in South Carolina, where all 66 surge sensors have successfully been retrieved.

In support of ESF #13, Public Safety and Security, DOI Irma Quick Response Teams (QRTs) 1, 4, and 6 relocated to Orlando, Florida, yesterday, pending their assignment. As of September 13, Moody Air Force Base is no longer being utilized as an ESF #13 staging area. DOI IRMA QRTs 1, 4, and 6 will support ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services) and ESF #9 (Search and Rescue) missions.

With respect to internal bureau and office-specific Irma activities:

The National Park Service (NPS) has 100-percent accountability of their employees. The current priorities are restoring services and access to the parks, debris removal, and providing support to employees who were impacted by Hurricane Irma. The NPS is tracking 140 personnel who are supporting Hurricane Irma response and recovery efforts, and the NPS Emergency Incident Coordination Center (EICC) remains at enhanced staffing. The NPS Eastern Incident Management Team (EIMT) has established operations in a local hotel until power is restored and they can permanently relocate to the Everglades National Park. The EIMT is coordinating saw teams and

assessment teams, including a team scheduled to visit the U.S. Virgin Islands. Detailed reports from parks most severely affected are contained within the attached DOI Emergency Management Daily Situation Report.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) reports 55 (-1) stations closed in the Service's Southeast Region (Region 4) due to Hurricane Irma. Task forces from the Incident Management Team are finishing up at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and Panther NWR. They are scheduled to move to Welaka National Fish Hatchery and the Florida Keys NWR Complex upon completion of their current mission. The Special Operations Response Team (SORT) has four additional officers on the way to Florida to provide additional Refuge security. The SORT will also be conducting a mission on Key West to search for an employee family member that is still missing. The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement has a fuel truck stationed in Tallahassee, Florida, with two agents standing by to provide supplies and relief to other employees in the impact zone. The Groveland, Vero Beach, Tampa Port, Tallahassee, and Jacksonville Offices are open for business. Detailed reports from refuges most severely affected are contained within the attached DOI Emergency Management Daily Situation Report.

BIA reports that the FEMA Region 4 Tribal Liaison and a FEMA team are on site with the Seminole Tribe, and are assisting with submitting resource requests and completing damage assessments. The Seminole Tribe of Florida has 4 shelters open, with a total population estimated at 48 (-37). Seventy-five Federal Law Enforcement Officers (FLEOs) arrived at the Seminole Tribe Emergency Operations Center on September 13. These personnel will be deployed to the Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee, and Hollywood Reservations. The Seminole Tribe has requested a general practitioner doctor from Indian Health Services (IHS) to support the Brighton Reservation clinic. While cellular companies are working to repair cell towers, the Seminole Tribe continues to have problems with receiving gas, diesel, and propane. The previously requested pharmacy shipment from IHS arrived as scheduled.

All U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) personnel are accounted for. In Puerto Rico, five USGS personnel were in the field yesterday making discharge measurements, repairing gages, and flagging additional measurements. In Florida, 52 personnel were assessing damage to gages, repairing gages, and making discharge measurements. Personnel from the USGS Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center have developed preliminary coastal change forecasts for the Florida Atlantic coast based on potential impacts from Hurricane Jose, and are coordinating results with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other partners.

Support updates to the interagency Hurricane Harvey Response are as follows:

DOI currently has 60 personnel supporting 5 FEMA MAs in response to Hurricane Harvey.

In support of ESF #4 (Firefighting), USFWS has 21 personnel deployed to Beaumont, Texas.

In support of ESF #5 (Information and Planning), 26 USGS personnel from Texas, Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Nebraska were in the field yesterday flagging and surveying in Texas. A total of 839 (+77) locations have had HWMs flagged, with 376 (+24) locations surveyed.

Law Enforcement Updates:



On September 16, six known gatherings will take place in the District of Columbia. Four of these events will take place on or around the area of the National Mall, with one of them being a counter-demonstration. A fifth event is being scheduled for Lafayette Park that should have no impact on the others, and the sixth event, as of now, is occurring on the grounds of the United States Capitol, but may include a march to the White House. The groups include: Mother of All Rallies (MOAR); Juggalo March on Washington, DC; March to Protect American Democracy; Root out Racism; DC Means “Don’t Come” – MOAR Counter Demonstration and, Arms Wide Open (Childhood Cancer Awareness). Due to the large number of participants as well as road closures associated with planned marches, a large police presence is needed for safety purposes.

#### Wildland Fire Updates:

The Sprague Fire in Glacier National Park, MT (NPS), has burned 15,995 (+1,200) acres and is 60 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 169 (+2) personnel assigned, including 89 (+14) DOI personnel. There are 238 (no change) structures threatened, 48 (no change) commercial structures threatened, and 4 (no change) persons sheltered in place. The fire is causing significant economic impacts to park concessions, outfitters, and local residents. Full containment is expected on November 1.

#### **Outside Media of Interest** (new)

##### **US Wildfire Costs Hit Record \$2.3 Billion; Season Isn’t Over.**

The AP (9/14) reports that “the U.S. government says it has already spent a record \$2.3 billion fighting wildfires this year, and 64 major fires are still burning in 10 states.” The Forest Service “said Thursday it has spent more than \$2 billion, and the Interior Department says it has spent \$345 million.” The article notes that “the previous record for combined federal firefighting costs was \$2.1 billion in 2015.”

##### **Herbert: Zinke Signaled Grand-Staircase Should Be Shrunk.**

The AP (9/14, PRICE) reports that Utah Gov. Gary Herbert “said Thursday that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has signaled that he’s recommending President Donald Trump shrink Utah’s two-decade old Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.” Herbert “doesn’t specifically know what Zinke has recommended for the 1.9-million acre (7,700-square kilometer) area or Utah’s new Bears Ears National Monument, but the governor said at his monthly news conference, taped at KUED-TV Thursday, that Zinke felt former President Bill Clinton’s 1996 declaration of Grand Staircase-Escalante went too far.”

##### **BLM: Wyoming Working To Fulfill Trump Energy Agenda.**

The Wyoming Tribune Eagle (9/14, Funk) reports that “with a very different energy agenda in the administration of President Donald Trump than his predecessor, the Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming is ready to adapt to those changes,” according to Duane Spencer, BLM of Wyoming deputy state director for minerals and lands. Spencer “spoke Wednesday during the 2017 BLM Industry and Government Conference in Rawlins.” Spencer said, “We have been working very closely with our Washington (D.C.) office to bring them up to speed on what Wyoming is working on, what resources we offer, and that we believe BLM Wyoming is strategically positioned to deliver on what some of the administration’s priorities are – in particular, the goal of making America safe through energy independence and contributing to economic development and local economies.”

**Protests Over BLM Timber Sale.**

KOBI-TV Medford, OR (9/14, Jordan) reports that “an auction for logging rights to hundreds of acres of Bureau of Land Management property drew a crowd of protesters in Grants Pass.” The BLM “says the land needs logging to prevent fires.” But “protesters were concerned about the thinning of old growth trees.”

**Deep-Sea Study To Begin Off Southeast Coast.**

The Coastal Review (9/14) reports that “a team of scientists is set to launch in the coming weeks a four-and-a-half year study of deep-sea coral, canyon and gas-seep ecosystems in the mid- and south Atlantic.” The team will “travel aboard the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s ship Pisces to explore biological features and geological processes, such as corals and naturally occurring gas seeps and the organisms that inhabit them.” The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the U.S. Geological Survey and NOAA’s Office of Exploration and Research are “supporting the study intended to shed light on little-known natural resources of the deep ocean off the Southeast coast.”

**U.S. And Mexico Set To Sign Landmark Colorado River Water-sharing Deal.**

USA Today (9/14, James) reports that “the U.S. and Mexican governments are close to signing a landmark Colorado River deal that will establish rules for sharing water over the next decade and lay out cooperative efforts intended to head off severe shortages.” Officials have “scheduled a signing ceremony on Sept. 26 in Ciudad Juárez, officials at California water districts said this week.” They said “that formal event will be followed by a ceremonial signing in Santa Fe, N.M., on Sept. 27 attended by representatives from the states involved.”

**Environmental Groups Challenge Use Of Waivers To Build At Border.**

The San Diego Union-Tribune (9/14, Moran) reports, “A coalition of environmental groups on Thursday sued the Department of Homeland Security challenging the use of sweeping power under a federal law to ignore environmental laws in order to build walls, fences and roads on the border.” The lawsuit was filed in federal court in San Diego by Defenders of Wildlife, the Sierra Club, and the Animal Legal Defense Fund. The Union-Tribune says the lawsuit “targets a section of the REAL ID Act of 2005 which granted the Secretary of Homeland Security the power to waive complying with federal laws such as the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act in order to expedite border security building projects.” The lawsuit “contends that the use of the law was limited to a certain time period after it was passed by Congress, and was not meant to be a perpetual tool the government can use to avoid laws.” The AP (9/14) reports the lawsuit “largely mirrors a lawsuit filed by another advocacy group, the Center for Biological Diversity, but the three organizations each say they have hundreds of thousands of members, bringing more attention and resources to a legal fight over one of President Donald Trump’s key campaign pledges.”

**Berkeley Gets Black Panther Tribute \$98K.**

The Daily Caller (9/14, Krayden) reports that the National Park Service is “giving \$98,000 to commemorate a violent student protest group: the Black Panther Party.” The NPS is “offering money to UC Berkeley so that it might ‘honor the legacy’ of the ‘60s-era organization that preached a communist revolution and upheld black nationalism.”

**Angry Mapp Chastises Community For Unreal Expectations.**

The Virgin Islands Daily News (9/13) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp “led off his nightly press

conference on Wednesday with an angry condemnation directed at members of the community he said have unreal expectations about the recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricane Irma.” On Wednesday, Mapp “first acknowledged the death of WAPA lineman Jason Julius before launching into a diatribe about the community’s complaints about the progress of recovery efforts.”

**Federal Register Listings:** (new)

Items were cleared for the FR on Thursday.

REG0007296 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Luther Bean Museum, Adams State University, Alamosa, CO N2828. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Luther Bean Museum, Adams State University, in Alamosa, Colorado. The remains were removed from Alamosa County in 1962. Notice 09/14/2017.

REG0007298 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO; Correction N2744. This Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) corrects an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in Jefferson City, Missouri. The remains and objects were removed from Pike County, Missouri. Notice 09/14/2017.

REG0007299 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: The Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee, FL (N2793). This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, in Tallahassee, Florida. The remains were removed from Queens County, New York, at an unknown date. Notice 09/14/2017.

REG0007300 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, NJ N2822. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton, New Jersey. The remains and objects were removed from multiple sites in New Jersey and one site in Pennsylvania. Notice 09/14/2017.

REG0007301 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Alabama Department of Transportation, Montgomery, AL N2800. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Alabama Department of Transportation in Montgomery, Alabama. The remains were removed from Madison County, Alabama, in 2012. Notice 09/14/2017.

REG0007302 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Logan Museum of Anthropology, Beloit College, Beloit, WI N2524. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Logan Museum of Anthropology, Beloit College, in Beloit, Wisconsin. The remains were removed from at least three counties and possibly more locations in Florida. Notice 09/14/2017.

REG0007303 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS N2564. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. The remains and objects were removed from Wyandotte County, Kansas, in the 1960's. Notice 09/14/2017.

REG0007318 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Department of Anthropology, The University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK N2799. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Department of Anthropology at The University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The remains were removed from Craighead County, Arkansas. Notice 09/14/2017.

REG0007319 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: USDA Forest Service, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Medford, OR N2626 This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. The remains were removed from the National Forest in Jackson County, Oregon. They are housed at the Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Anthropology. Notice 09/14/2017.

REG0007383 USGS Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; iCoast--Did the Coast Change? This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to "iCoast--Did the Coast Change?" activities. The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 09/14/2017.

Doug Domenech  
Senior Advisor  
US Department of the Interior

NOTE: *Every email I send or receive is subject to release under the Freedom of Information Act.*

## **DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR DAILY UPDATE FOR CABINET AFFAIRS – 9/15/17**

Doug Domenech, Senior Advisor

Lori Mashburn, White House Liaison

NOTE: Starting Monday, Lori Mashburn produce these reports. Doug Domenech will move to his new position in the department.

### **Status of the Secretary**

TODAY: The Secretary is in Washington, DC.

Various meetings and briefings.

Meeting with the Republic of the Marshall Islands President Hilda Heine.

Meeting with Alaska Federation of Natives.

Call with Governor Walker (3pm Eastern/11 am Alaska)

Call with Senator Heller.

Call with Sen. Udall.

Call with Chairman Murkowski.

Call w/Rep. Don Young.

### **NEXT WEEK:**

9:16: American Legion Riders Event, Attend Wolf Trap event.

9/18-19: Washington, DC. Various meetings and briefings. Revenue Comparison Analysis Model Meeting.

9/20: Travel to Missouri. Remarks at Gala Dinner Event - Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ.

9/21: Confirmed Ribbon Cutting Wonders of Wildlife Museum and Aquarium at the Bass Pro HQ. Travel to Dallas, TX. Dinner Remarks at NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Closed Press).

9/22: Washington. Wolf Trap Annual Gala.

### **Status of the Deputy Secretary**

TODAY: The Deputy Secretary is in Washington, DC.

### **Media TODAY**

#### **SECRETARY ZINKE SIGNS SECRETARIAL ORDER TO SUPPORT SPORTSMEN & ENHANCE WILDLIFE CONSERVATION**

Order seeks to expand access on public and private lands and to promote hunting and fishing among youth, veterans, and minority communities

WASHINGTON – Today, U.S. Secretary of the Interior Ryan Zinke signed Secretarial Order 3356, which will support and expand hunting and fishing, enhance conservation stewardship, improve wildlife management, and increase outdoor recreation opportunities for all Americans. Secretarial Order 3356 is an extension of Secretarial Order 3347, issued on Zinke's first day, March 2, 2017. That order identified a slate of actions for the restoration of the American sportsmen conservation ethic, which was established by President Theodore Roosevelt.

The new order comes days after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service announced a survey that found there are 2.2 million fewer hunters in America now than in 2011. The order seeks to improve wildlife management and conservation, increase access to public lands for hunting, shooting, and fishing, and puts a new and a greater emphasis on recruiting and retaining new sportsmen conservationists, with a

focus on engaging youths, veterans, minorities, and other communities that traditionally have low participation in outdoor recreation activities.

#### **WH COMMS REPORT** (new report filed Thursday

##### **Press Inquiries:**

- Many small inquiries.
- Politico: (Esther Whieldon)—REQUEST--I'm looking into the Cadiz water project and its connection with Zinke's review of the Mojave Trails national monument. To what extent was David Bernhardt involved in the Sept. 1 railroad ROW rights scope solicitor's opinion (titled "Withdrawal of Solicitor's Opinion M-37025 issued on November 4, 2011, and Partial Withdrawal of Solicitor's Opinion M-36964 issued on January 5, 1989")? And to what extent was Bernhardt involved in Zinke's monument review, including on the Mojave Trails monument? Lastly, to what extent does the agency define the Mojave trails review as a decision that involves Cadiz or how has it delineated between the two, if at all?—RESPONSE--The Cadiz water project has nothing to do with the review of Mojave Trails. There is no connection. Mr. Bernhardt was not involved in the Sept. 1 railroad ROW opinion and was not aware of the opinion until it was uploaded on the Internet. Mr. Bernhardt was not involved in the Mohave Trail Monument Review. The Deputy Secretary, after close coordination with the career ethics experts within the Office of Ethics, has fully complied with his obligations under the Ethics pledge. Mr. Bernhardt has agreed to recuse himself from particular matters involving specific parties. He has committed to ensuring that he is setting the highest ethical standards for his office.
- CQ Roll Call: (Jackie Toth) –REQUEST-- Has DOI received environmentalists' petition today asking for a rulemaking action to ensure fair market value in oil and gas leasing? How does DOI intend to respond?—RESPONSE--The Department always appreciates seeing the American people supporting our work. In the case of ensuring fair market value in energy leases, please see the Royalty Policy Committee, which the Secretary championed. <https://www.doi.gov/pressreleases/secretary-zinke-appoints-members-royalty-policy-committee-announces-first-meeting>

##### **Top Stories**

- Associated Press: Herbert: Zinke Signaled Grand-Staircase Should Be Shrunk
- Washington Examiner: Interior's Zinke demands 'aggressive' war on fires, stop letting 'nature take its course'
- NewsOK (Oklahoma): Oklahoma tribal members appointed to federal Indian Affairs posts
- E&E News: Zinke orders 'aggressive' tree, brush cutting to prevent fires

##### **Top Issues and Accomplishments**

- Interior continues to support all Hurricane Harvey and Hurricane Irma efforts. All bureaus are executing their emergency plans and assisting in Hurricane relief.
- Interior sent a press release regarding the Senate Confirmation of Doug Domenech as Assistant Secretary for Insular Areas. The press release can be seen [HERE](#).
- Later today, Interior will announce the signing of a Secretarial Order to Support Sportsmen & Enhance Wildlife Conservation.
- Saturday, Interior will announce the winners of the Federal Duck Stamp awards.
- Monday, DOI will announce \$94.3 million to be distributed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to all 50 states and territories.

#### **AGENCY MEDIA**

**WEEK AHEAD September 13 thru September 21, 2017**

#### Secretarial-level Announcements/Events/Interviews

- This week the Secretary is in Washington, D.C., until Sept. 20, where he will travel to Springfield, MO, to participate in the ribbon cutting and the opening of the “Wonders of Wildlife National Museum and Aquarium.”
- This week we are working with our federal, state, and Tribal partners to support the WH and FEMA with the Hurricane recovery and wildfire response. The NPS Director is in the USVI to oversee response efforts.
- September 13: we announced PDAS for Indian Affairs, John Tahsuda.
- September 14: Secretary Zinke will sign a Secretarial Order to Support Sportsmen & Enhance Conservation. We will issue a press release.
- September 18: Department-level Release: DOI and NPS will announce \$94.3 million to be distributed from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to all 50 States, the Territories, and the District of Columbia for State-identified outdoor recreation and conservation projects.
- September 16: Department-level Release: Duck Stamp winners announced.
- TBD: Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Doug Domenech was confirmed by the Senate the evening of September 13. We will issue a statement and photo of his swearing-in asap.

#### National Park Service

- September TBD: Local NPS Release: NPS Pacific West Region will announce the new superintendent of Redwood National and State Parks.
- September TBD: Local NPS Release: NPS will issue a news release regarding the independent review panel findings that Golden Gate National Recreation Area dog rule process was unaffected by inappropriate personal email use.
- September 17: Antietam National Battlefield will commemorate the 150th anniversary of Antietam National Cemetery. The ceremony will begin at noon and include speeches by historian Gary Gallagher, U.S.S. Antietam Captain George Kessler, and Maryland Lieutenant Governor Boyd Rutherford. Following the ceremony, the public will be invited to participate in a reading of the names of those interred in the cemetery and the placing of flags at each grave site.

#### U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

- September 14: Local FWS Release: Release announcing the final listing determination for the pearl darter as threatened. FWS is required to publish the determination in the Federal Register by September 21.
- September 14: Local FWS Release: By September 14, FWS will send to the Federal Register the final rule to list the Sonoyta mud turtle as an endangered species. Sonoyta mud turtle was designated a candidate in 1997 and we were petitioned to list the species in 2004 (in a 225 organism mega-petition). The turtle occurs in the U.S. in only one population at Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument in southern Arizona, and four populations in northern Sonora Mexico. These five remaining populations occupy only about 8-20 percent of the turtle’s historical range.
- September 15: Local FWS Release: FWS Region 2 will announce this voluntary conservation agreement to conserve the Texas hornshell mussel.
- September 19: Local FWS Release: FWS is required by settlement agreement to submit the endangered finding for the i’iwi to the Federal Register by September 20. Outreach is planned to Hawaiian media and to national conservation and bird-centric media.
- September TBD: Public comment period opening for voluntary wildlife conservation opportunity designed with Montana ranchers, regulatory certainty for the next 20 years through a Programmatic

Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances (CCAA). Participants can voluntarily take steps to conserve the Sprague's pipit, McCown's longspur, chestnut-collared longspur, Baird's sparrow, and greater sage-grouse on their property while conducting their general business operations.

### **Bureau of Land Management**

- Week of September 18: Local BLM Release: BLM-AZ will announce the acquisition of the 600-acre ET Ranch in Southeastern Arizona, through a shared conservation partnership with the Trust for Public Land and Arizona Game and Fish Department. The acquisition will open access for hunters, hikers, and backpackers to 32,600 acres of Federal wilderness area for the first time and is supported by 20 Arizona hunting and sporting groups.
- September 18: The public comment period closes on the BLM-NV December 2017 Oil and Gas Lease Sale Preliminary Environmental Assessment. A competitive oil and gas lease sale will be held December 12. The BLM received requests to lease 208 nominated parcels of public land, totaling 388,960 acres. The parcels are located in White Pine, Nye County, and Lincoln County. There is no estimate on the number of bidders at this time.
- September 19: BLM-WY Buffalo Field Office will meet with landowners from around the Pumpkin Buttes Traditional Cultural Property to discuss concerns with a proposed Programmatic Agreement that would streamline and define that tribal consultation about federal projects within three miles of the area would take place. The meeting will be staffed by local BLM management and subject matter experts on oil and gas development and cultural resources from the Buffalo Field Office. The public and media will be invited.
- September 21: National BLM Release: BLM-Eastern States will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for three parcels in Monroe County, OH, totaling 141.56 acres, and 3 parcels in Catahoula and Bienville Parishes, LA, totaling 50.15 acres. The sale in Ohio is expected to be controversial. Bidding is not expected to be robust.
- September 21: National BLM Release: BLM-WY will hold an online oil and gas lease sale for 141 parcels totaling 118,055.54 acres in Niobrara, Weston, Goshen, Crook, Converse, Campbell, Johnson, Fremont, Big Horn, Washakie, Weston, and Sheridan Counties, WY. The sale is not expected to be controversial. Bidding is not expected to be robust.

### **U.S. Geological Survey**

- September 18: Local USGS Release: USGS will put out a release announcing that scientists from the GHSC and Menlo Park will be excavating a trench across the Teton fault in Jackson, Wyoming. A media availability will take place Sept. 20.
- September 18: Local USGS Release: USGS will put out a release announcing that scientists will conduct dye tracer and aerial mapping surveys on northern Idaho's Kootenai River.'
- September 21: National USGS Release: USGS will put out a release regarding a nature article on the potential release of mercury currently stored in permafrost.

### **Bureau of Ocean Energy Management**

- September 12: National BOEM Release: BOEM will announce new mid-and south Atlantic canyons, corals, seeps study, in partnership with USGS and NOAA under the National Oceanographic Partnership Program. First mission begins Sept. 10, and runs for 3 weeks. Similar arrangement as the previous NOPP Mid-Atlantic canyons study.
- September 12: BOEM Note to Stakeholders: BOEM will send invitations to a New York Renewable Energy Intergovernmental Task Force on October 3.



- September 15-19 (tent.): Note to Stakeholders on the Notice of Availability (NOA) for the Cape Wind Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD is due to be completed on Sep 15.
- September TBD: National BOEM Release: Gulf G&G PEIS Record of Decision.
- September TBD: National BOEM Release: BOEM will announce Marine Minerals
- Rule.

#### **Office of Insular Affairs**

- September TBD: OIA Release American Samoa Authorization to Proceed – Insular ABCs – Repairs in the Public Schools.
- September TBD: FSM Compact Infrastructure and Technical Assistance ~ \$1.5 million September TBD: RMI Press Release Compact Infrastructure \$149,436; Ebeye Special Needs \$300,000; Health Care Program for 4 Atolls (Section 177) \$697,387.
- September TBD: FY 2017 CIP Infrastructure funding for Guam and CNMI ~ \$10 million

#### **Office of Natural Resources Revenue**

- September TBD: National ONRR Release: ONRR will announce Secretary's appointment of 20 non-federal members of Royalty Policy Committee and announcing first Meeting of Committee on Oct. 4.

#### **Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement**

- September 13: BSEE News Brief: BSEE will issue a news brief regarding their participation in the Feds Feed Families program.

#### **CONGRESSIONAL** (updated)

Tuesday, September 19, 2017

9:30am: Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Business Meeting to consider the nominations of Mr. Ryan Nelson to be Solicitor of the Interior, Mr. Joseph Balash to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Land and Minerals Management, and Mr. Richard Glick and Mr. Kevin McIntyre to be Members of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

#### **Political Appointee Update** (no change)

DOI politicals on board = 55

1 confirmed 9/13.

4 nominated awaiting confirmation:

Pending Senate floor vote: Susan Combs, Assistant Secretary Policy Management and Budget.

Pending Senate floor vote: Brenda Berman, Commissioner, Bureau of Reclamation.

Pending Senate Committee Vote 9/19: Joe Balash, Assistant Secretary, Land and Minerals.

Pending Senate Committee Vote 9/19: Ryan Douglas Nelson, Solicitor.

Overall:

Schedule C: 32 of 68 onboard; 1 starting; 5 in process

NC-SES: 21 of 44 onboard; 3 starting; 3 in process

PAS: 3 Confirmed; 4 Announced; 15 of 17 Submitted to PPO

#### **Secretary Speaking Invitations** (unchanged from yesterday)

Accepted

9/20-21 - Ribbon Cutting, Wonders of Wildlife Museum & Aquarium Bass Pro HQ (Springfield, MO)

9/22-24 - NRA Women's Leadership Forum Summit (Dallas, TX)  
9/25 - Remarks at National Stone Sand and Gravel Association Legislative and Policy Forum (DC)  
9/25 – National Petroleum Council  
9/26 – National Clean Energy Week Symposium (DC)  
9/26 - Jefferson's Islands Club Citizen of the Year Award (DC)  
9/27-28 - Cohen Veterans Care Summit (DC)

#### Outstanding Invitations in Process

Open - Detroit Economic Club  
Open - Americans for Tax Reform (DC)  
Open - Weyrich Lunch (DC)

#### Declining

9/17 - 150th Anniversary for the Antietam National Cemetery (Antietam)  
9/18 – Concordia Annual Summit (NYC)  
9/23 - Southern Illinois Hunting & Fishing Days Inc. (Carterville, IL)  
9/19-21 - Montana Wood Products Assn - Forest Resources Association Convention (Whitefish, MT)  
9/20 – Remarks to the European Conservatives and Reformists Group (DC)  
9/21 - Associated Industries of Florida (AIF) (DC)  
9/23 - Buffalo Bill Centennial Ball (Cody, Wyoming)  
9/23 - National Mining Hall of Fame (Denver, CO)  
9/26 - Billings Chamber Annual Mtg (Billings, MT)  
9/26 - S&P Annual Asia Pacific Petroleum Conference (Singapore)  
9/26 - GAO for international conference on extractive industries (DC)  
9/28-30 - Council for National Policy  
10/1-3 - New Mexico Oil and Gas Association (Santa Fe)  
10/2 - IOGCC Annual Meeting (Pittsburgh PA)  
10/3 – ShaleTech Permian (Odessa, Texas)  
10-16-17 Americans For Tax Reform Coalition Leaders Summit (Miami Beach, FL)  
10/13 - Public Land & Resources Law Review's Public Land Law Conference (Missoula, MT)  
11/14 – George Rogers Clark National Historical Park Quarter Launch (Vincennes, Indiana)  
10/31 - George B. Hartzog, Jr. Awards and Speaker Program Clemson University (SC)

#### **Emergency Management** (new)

As operations for Hurricane Harvey and Irma have begun to transition from response to long term recovery, the Interior Operations Center (IOC) will reduce its operational status to Level 3 (Enhanced Operations) effective September 15, 2017, at 8:00 a.m. EDT.

#### Support updates to the interagency Hurricane Irma Response are as follows:

DOI currently has 190 personnel supporting 10 FEMA Mission Assignments (MA) in response to Hurricane Irma.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) officially received a FEMA MA under Emergency Support Function (ESF) #5 (Information and Planning) to deploy one (1) BIA Liaison Officer (LNO) to Florida to help coordinate with the Region 4 Tribal Liaison, the Seminole Tribe, and other affected tribes in the state during response and recovery efforts. This LNO is expected to arrive in Florida today. The MA also

includes support for BIA's Tribal Assistance Coordination Group (TAC-G) which is the first time FEMA has recognized the TAC-G's role in tribal response activities.

In support of ESF #5 (Information and Planning), U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) had one person in Puerto Rico flagging high water marks (HWMs) on September 13. Additionally, USGS had 26 personnel in Florida and 10 in Georgia retrieving storm surge sensors and analyzing data. A total of 42 surge sensors were retrieved between the two states. Two additional personnel were analyzing previously gathered data from sensors in South Carolina, where all 66 surge sensors have successfully been retrieved.

In support of ESF #13, Public Safety and Security, DOI Irma Quick Response Teams (QRTs) 1, 4, and 6 relocated to Orlando, Florida, yesterday, pending their assignment. As of September 13, Moody Air Force Base is no longer being utilized as an ESF #13 staging area. DOI IRMA QRTs 1, 4, and 6 will support ESF #8 (Public Health and Medical Services) and ESF #9 (Search and Rescue) missions.

With respect to internal bureau and office-specific Irma activities:

The National Park Service (NPS) has 100-percent accountability of their employees. The current priorities are restoring services and access to the parks, debris removal, and providing support to employees who were impacted by Hurricane Irma. The NPS is tracking 140 personnel who are supporting Hurricane Irma response and recovery efforts, and the NPS Emergency Incident Coordination Center (EICC) remains at enhanced staffing. The NPS Eastern Incident Management Team (EIMT) has established operations in a local hotel until power is restored and they can permanently relocate to the Everglades National Park. The EIMT is coordinating saw teams and assessment teams, including a team scheduled to visit the U.S. Virgin Islands. Detailed reports from parks most severely affected are contained within the attached DOI Emergency Management Daily Situation Report.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) reports 55 (-1) stations closed in the Service's Southeast Region (Region 4) due to Hurricane Irma. Task forces from the Incident Management Team are finishing up at Okefenokee National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) and Panther NWR. They are scheduled to move to Welaka National Fish Hatchery and the Florida Keys NWR Complex upon completion of their current mission. The Special Operations Response Team (SORT) has four additional officers on the way to Florida to provide additional Refuge security. The SORT will also be conducting a mission on Key West to search for an employee family member that is still missing. The USFWS Office of Law Enforcement has a fuel truck stationed in Tallahassee, Florida, with two agents standing by to provide supplies and relief to other employees in the impact zone. The Groveland, Vero Beach, Tampa Port, Tallahassee, and Jacksonville Offices are open for business. Detailed reports from refuges most severely affected are contained within the attached DOI Emergency Management Daily Situation Report.

BIA reports that the FEMA Region 4 Tribal Liaison and a FEMA team are on site with the Seminole Tribe, and are assisting with submitting resource requests and completing damage assessments. The Seminole Tribe of Florida has 4 shelters open, with a total population estimated at 48 (-37). Seventy-five Federal Law Enforcement Officers (FLEOs) arrived at the Seminole Tribe Emergency Operations Center on September 13. These personnel will be deployed to the Big Cypress, Brighton, Immokalee, and Hollywood Reservations. The Seminole Tribe has requested a general practitioner doctor from Indian Health Services (IHS) to support the Brighton Reservation clinic. While cellular companies are working to repair cell towers, the Seminole Tribe continues to have problems with receiving gas, diesel, and propane. The previously requested pharmacy shipment from IHS arrived as scheduled.

All U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) personnel are accounted for. In Puerto Rico, five USGS personnel were in the field yesterday making discharge measurements, repairing gages, and flagging additional measurements. In Florida, 52 personnel were assessing damage to gages, repairing gages, and making discharge measurements. Personnel from the USGS Caribbean-Florida Water Science Center have developed preliminary coastal change forecasts for the Florida Atlantic coast based on potential impacts from Hurricane Jose, and are coordinating results with the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and other partners.

Support updates to the interagency Hurricane Harvey Response are as follows:

DOI currently has 60 personnel supporting 5 FEMA MAs in response to Hurricane Harvey.

In support of ESF #4 (Firefighting), USFWS has 21 personnel deployed to Beaumont, Texas.

In support of ESF #5 (Information and Planning), 26 USGS personnel from Texas, Arizona, Oklahoma, New Mexico, and Nebraska were in the field yesterday flagging and surveying in Texas. A total of 839 (+77) locations have had HWMs flagged, with 376 (+24) locations surveyed.

Law Enforcement Updates:

On September 16, six known gatherings will take place in the District of Columbia. Four of these events will take place on or around the area of the National Mall, with one of them being a counter-demonstration. A fifth event is being scheduled for Lafayette Park that should have no impact on the others, and the sixth event, as of now, is occurring on the grounds of the United States Capitol, but may include a march to the White House. The groups include: Mother of All Rallies (MOAR); Juggalo March on Washington, DC; March to Protect American Democracy; Root out Racism; DC Means “Don’t Come” – MOAR Counter Demonstration and, Arms Wide Open (Childhood Cancer Awareness). Due to the large number of participants as well as road closures associated with planned marches, a large police presence is needed for safety purposes.

Wildland Fire Updates:

The Sprague Fire in Glacier National Park, MT (NPS), has burned 15,995 (+1,200) acres and is 60 (no change)-percent contained. The fire is managed by a Type-2 IMT with 169 (+2) personnel assigned, including 89 (+14) DOI personnel. There are 238 (no change) structures threatened, 48 (no change) commercial structures threatened, and 4 (no change) persons sheltered in place. The fire is causing significant economic impacts to park concessions, outfitters, and local residents. Full containment is expected on November 1.

**Outside Media of Interest** (new)

**US Wildfire Costs Hit Record \$2.3 Billion; Season Isn’t Over.**

The AP (9/14) reports that “the U.S. government says it has already spent a record \$2.3 billion fighting wildfires this year, and 64 major fires are still burning in 10 states.” The Forest Service “said Thursday it has spent more than \$2 billion, and the Interior Department says it has spent \$345 million.” The article notes that “the previous record for combined federal firefighting costs was \$2.1 billion in 2015.”

**Herbert: Zinke Signaled Grand-Staircase Should Be Shrunk.**

The AP (9/14, PRICE) reports that Utah Gov. Gary Herbert “said Thursday that Interior Secretary Ryan Zinke has signaled that he’s recommending President Donald Trump shrink Utah’s two-decade old Grand Staircase-Escalante National Monument.” Herbert “doesn’t specifically know what Zinke has

recommended for the 1.9-million acre (7,700-square kilometer) area of Utah's new Bears Ears National Monument, but the governor said at his monthly news conference, taped at KUED-TV Thursday, that Zinke felt former President Bill Clinton's 1996 declaration of Grand Staircase-Escalante went too far."

#### **BLM: Wyoming Working To Fulfill Trump Energy Agenda.**

The Wyoming Tribune Eagle (9/14, Funk) reports that "with a very different energy agenda in the administration of President Donald Trump than his predecessor, the Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming is ready to adapt to those changes," according to Duane Spencer, BLM of Wyoming deputy state director for minerals and lands. Spencer "spoke Wednesday during the 2017 BLM Industry and Government Conference in Rawlins." Spencer said, "We have been working very closely with our Washington (D.C.) office to bring them up to speed on what Wyoming is working on, what resources we offer, and that we believe BLM Wyoming is strategically positioned to deliver on what some of the administration's priorities are – in particular, the goal of making America safe through energy independence and contributing to economic development and local economies."

#### **Protests Over BLM Timber Sale.**

KOBI-TV Medford, OR (9/14, Jordan) reports that "an auction for logging rights to hundreds of acres of Bureau of Land Management property drew a crowd of protesters in Grants Pass." The BLM "says the land needs logging to prevent fires." But "protesters were concerned about the thinning of old growth trees."

#### **Deep-Sea Study To Begin Off Southeast Coast.**

The Coastal Review (9/14) reports that "a team of scientists is set to launch in the coming weeks a four-and-a-half year study of deep-sea coral, canyon and gas-seep ecosystems in the mid- and south Atlantic." The team will "travel aboard the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's ship Pisces to explore biological features and geological processes, such as corals and naturally occurring gas seeps and the organisms that inhabit them." The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, the U.S. Geological Survey and NOAA's Office of Exploration and Research are "supporting the study intended to shed light on little-known natural resources of the deep ocean off the Southeast coast."

#### **U.S. And Mexico Set To Sign Landmark Colorado River Water-sharing Deal.**

USA Today (9/14, James) reports that "the U.S. and Mexican governments are close to signing a landmark Colorado River deal that will establish rules for sharing water over the next decade and lay out cooperative efforts intended to head off severe shortages." Officials have "scheduled a signing ceremony on Sept. 26 in Ciudad Juárez, officials at California water districts said this week." They said "that formal event will be followed by a ceremonial signing in Santa Fe, N.M., on Sept. 27 attended by representatives from the states involved."

#### **Environmental Groups Challenge Use Of Waivers To Build At Border.**

The San Diego Union-Tribune (9/14, Moran) reports, "A coalition of environmental groups on Thursday sued the Department of Homeland Security challenging the use of sweeping power under a federal law to ignore environmental laws in order to build walls, fences and roads on the border." The lawsuit was filed in federal court in San Diego by Defenders of Wildlife, the Sierra Club, and the Animal Legal Defense Fund. The Union-Tribune says the lawsuit "targets a section of the REAL ID Act of 2005 which granted the Secretary of Homeland Security the power to waive complying with federal laws such as the Endangered Species Act, Clean Air Act in order to expedite border security building projects." The lawsuit "contends that the use of the law was limited to a certain time period after it was passed by Congress, and was not meant to be a perpetual tool the government can use to avoid laws." The AP

(9/14) reports the lawsuit “largely mirrors a lawsuit filed by another advocacy group, the Center for Biological Diversity, but the three organizations each say they have hundreds of thousands of members, bringing more attention and resources to a legal fight over one of President Donald Trump’s key campaign pledges.”

#### **Berkeley Gets Black Panther Tribute \$98K.**

The Daily Caller (9/14, Krayden) reports that the National Park Service is “giving \$98,000 to commemorate a violent student protest group: the Black Panther Party.” The NPS is “offering money to UC Berkeley so that it might ‘honor the legacy’ of the ‘60s-era organization that preached a communist revolution and upheld black nationalism.”

#### **Angry Mapp Chastises Community For Unreal Expectations.**

The Virgin Islands Daily News (9/13) reports that Gov. Kenneth Mapp “led off his nightly press conference on Wednesday with an angry condemnation directed at members of the community he said have unreal expectations about the recovery efforts in the wake of Hurricane Irma.” On Wednesday, Mapp “first acknowledged the death of WAPA lineman Jason Julius before launching into a diatribe about the community’s complaints about the progress of recovery efforts.”

#### **Federal Register Listings: (new)**

Items were cleared for the FR on Thursday.

REG0007296 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Luther Bean Museum, Adams State University, Alamosa, CO N2828. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Luther Bean Museum, Adams State University, in Alamosa, Colorado. The remains were removed from Alamosa County in 1962. Notice 09/14/2017.

REG0007298 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Missouri Department of Natural Resources, Jefferson City, MO; Correction N2744. This Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) corrects an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Missouri Department of Natural Resources in Jefferson City, Missouri. The remains and objects were removed from Pike County, Missouri. Notice 09/14/2017.

REG0007299 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: The Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, Tallahassee, FL (N2793). This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Florida Department of State, Division of Historical Resources, in Tallahassee, Florida. The remains were removed from Queens County, New York, at an unknown date. Notice 09/14/2017.

REG0007300 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: New Jersey State Museum, Trenton, NJ N2822. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the New Jersey State Museum in Trenton, New Jersey. The remains and objects were removed from multiple sites in New Jersey and one site in Pennsylvania. Notice 09/14/2017.

REG0007301 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Alabama Department of Transportation, Montgomery, AL N2800. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the

Alabama Department of Transportation in Montgomery, Alabama. The remains were removed from Madison County, Alabama, in 2012. Notice 09/14/2017.

REG0007302 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Logan Museum of Anthropology, Beloit College, Beloit, WI N2524. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Logan Museum of Anthropology, Beloit College, in Beloit, Wisconsin. The remains were removed from at least three counties and possibly more locations in Florida. Notice 09/14/2017.

REG0007303 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS N2564. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains and associated funerary objects under the control of the Kansas State University in Manhattan, Kansas. The remains and objects were removed from Wyandotte County, Kansas, in the 1960's. Notice 09/14/2017.

REG0007318 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: Department of Anthropology, The University of Tulsa, Tulsa, OK N2799. This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the Department of Anthropology at The University of Tulsa in Tulsa, Oklahoma. The remains were removed from Craighead County, Arkansas. Notice 09/14/2017.

REG0007319 NPS Notice of Inventory Completion: USDA Forest Service, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest, Medford, OR N2626 This is a Notice pursuant to the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) of the completion of an inventory of human remains under the control of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest. The remains were removed from the National Forest in Jackson County, Oregon. They are housed at the Southern Oregon University Laboratory of Anthropology. Notice 09/14/2017.

REG0007383 USGS Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission to the Office of Management and Budget for Review and Approval; iCoast--Did the Coast Change? This Notice, under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995 (PRA), announces that the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) will ask the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) to renew its approval of the collection of information pertaining to "iCoast--Did the Coast Change?" activities. The USGS is requesting public comments on the renewal for 30 days. Notice 09/14/2017.